

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184331

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 184331

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, UK, MPOL

SUBJECT:F-111 BASING

USCINCEUR PASS TO POLAD

1. THE US IS CONSIDERING DEPLOYMENT OF AN 84 UE WING OF F-111F AIRCRAFT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO RAF LAKENHEATH, UK IN SPRING 1977. THE 72 F-4S CURRENTLY AT LAKENHEATH WOULD BE REDEPLOYED TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. THE F-111S WOULD BE NATO COMMITTED IN AN FBS/A ROLE AND WOULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO NATO'S CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR DETERRENT CAPABILITIES. WITH UK

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 184331

CONCURRENCE, THE DEPLOYMENT WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE

1976 US SUBMISSION TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ).

3. THE F-111 DEPLOYMENT WOULD INCREASE MILITARY PERSONNEL AT RAF LAKENHEATH BY ABOUT 600, MANY OF WHOM WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR FAMILIES. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS AT RAF LAKENHEATH WILL COST APPROXIMATELY DOLS 1 MILLION. (THIS INCLUDES MODIFICATION OF THE AVIONICS FACILITY, INSTALLATION OF A BAK-12 BARRIER, MODIFICATION OF THE ENGINE TEST CELL PAD, AND PREPARATION OF A SIMULATOR FACILITY). FYI. SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MAY ALREADY BE KNOWN TO THE BRITISH THROUGH INFORMAL MILITARY DISCUSSION.

END FYI.

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4. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD CONVEY SOONEST INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS 1-3 TO APPROPRIATE SENIOR FCO/MOD OFFICIALS. STRESSING US DESIRE TO HAVE FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH AN CONCURRENCE OF HMG. (SUBSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT HMG ON TIMING AND PUBLIC HANDLING OF THE DEPLOYMENT.) MOREOVER, WE ARE OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS HMG MAY HAVE REGARDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRG AND OTHER ALLIES BEYOND NATO'S REVIEW OF DPQ SUBMISSIONS.

5. PLEASE REPORT FULLY UK VIEWS ON PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT. FYI. IF BRITISH RAISE QUESTIONS REGARDING POTENTIAL IMPACT ON SALT AND MBFR, DETAILED GUIDANCE WILL BE FURNISHED IN RESPONSE TO THESE AND ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS THAT MAY ARISE. END FYI. CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE STILL BEING FORMULATED HERE.

6. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: YOU SHOULD TAKE NO ACTION AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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NNN

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